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INVINCIBLE



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INVINCIBLE™

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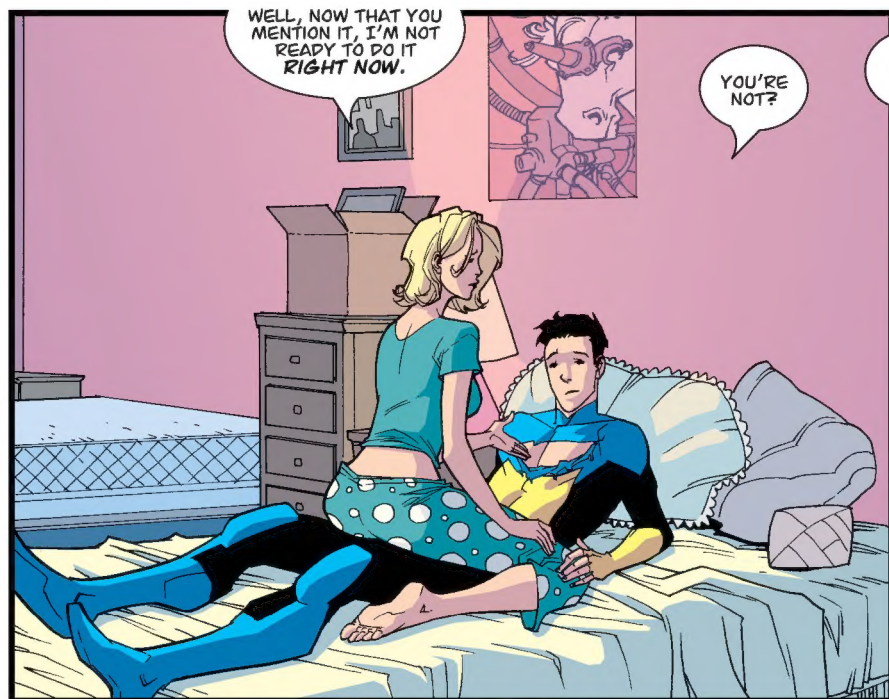


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KLICK.

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

SUPER-POWERS, BABY.

BORN OF A RACE ENDANGERED, CAST OUT OF THEIR HOMEWORLD LIKE A BAND OF GYPSIES, TESTED AND EXPERIMENTED ON TO INCREASE HIS STRENGTH AND SPEED, UNTIL HE EMERGED A GUARDIAN OF THE SPACEWAYS. IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS: ALLEN THE ALIEN IN:

THIS MESSAGE. THIS MACHINATION!

AND SO, DEAR READER, WE TURN OUR ATTENTIONS ELSEWHERE TO GIVE YOUNG MARK GRAYSON AND AMBER BENNETT SOME PRIVACY.

THIS IS A FAMILY TITLE AFTER ALL.

YES, WE TURN TO EVENTS TRANSPIRING ELSEWHERE, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, **DEEP SPACE**. TO BE STILL MORE SPECIFIC, **DEEP SPACE** A FEW MONTHS AGO. TO BE EVEN **STILL** MORE SPECIFIC, **DEEP SPACE** A FEW MONTHS AGO, ON A DIRECT PATH FROM EARTH TO THE HEART OF THE **COALITION OF PLANETS!**

ON THIS PATH WE FIND **ALLEN THE ALIEN**, DILIGENT IN HIS MISSION TO DELIVER NEWS TO HIS SUPERIORS. DILIGENT IN BRINGING THEM THE MESSAGE OF HIS DEALINGS ON **EARTH!**

A MESSAGE THAT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS: THERE IS A **VILTRUMITE** ON EARTH WITH NO LOYALTIES TO THE **VILTRUM EMPIRE**. BEYOND THAT THERE IS ANOTHER **VILTRUMITE** WHO HAS ABANDONED HIS POST.*

THESE ACTIONS ARE **UNHEARD OF**---AND NEWS OF THIS MAY WELL BRING THE **COALITION** THE HOPE IT NEEDS IN THESE DIRE TIMES.

*SEE ISSUE 13, TRUE BELIEVERS.

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CORY WALKER
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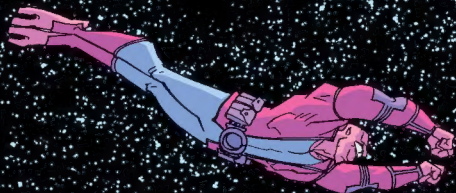
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AS ALLEN'S LONG JOURNEY HOME CONTINUES HIS MIND DRIFTS, THINKING BACK ON THE HUMBLE ORIGINS OF HIS PEOPLE... AND HIMSELF.

A TALE THAT WOULD RIVAL DEEP SPACE ITSELF IN COLD AND HARSHNESS.



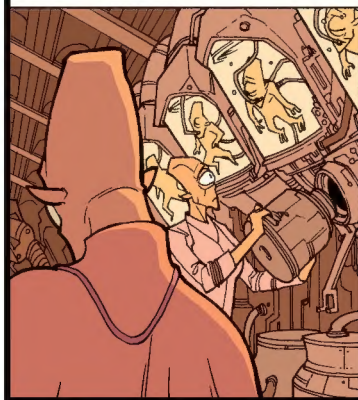
LIFE ON UNOPA WAS ENDED WHEN THE VILTRUMITES INVADED. LIKE A PLAGUE OF UNEQUALED POTENCY, THE VILTRUMITES SWEEP ACROSS THE PLANET--CONQUERING IT IN A MATTER OF DAYS.



EVER RESOURCEFUL--THE UNOPANS WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE THEIR PLANET, ABANDONING IT FOR THE STARS--AND THE PROMISE OF A NEW LIFE.



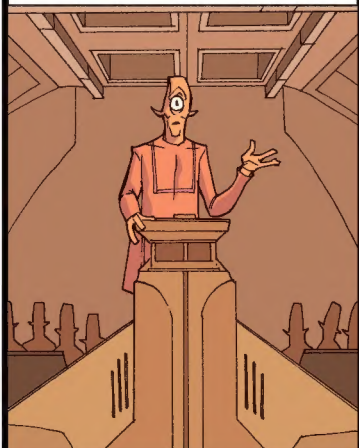
TO ENSURE THEIR RACE'S SURVIVAL, BREEDING CAMPS WERE FORMED ON VARIOUS OUTPOSTS. OFFSPRING WERE PRODUCED IN A FACTORY ENVIRONMENT, RESULTING IN A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF FAMILY STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN UNOPAN SOCIETY.



IMPRESSED WITH THE UNOPANS ABILITY TO ESCAPE AND OVERCOME THE HARDSHIPS OF THE VILTRUMITE INVASION--THE **COALITION OF PLANETS** INVITED THEM TO JOIN THEIR RANKS.



ONCE THE UNOPANS HAD BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE COALITION OF PLANETS A PLAN WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE HIGH COUNCIL OF ELDERS.



THE UNOPAN LEADER HAD DEVISED A METHOD OF GENETIC ENHANCEMENT THAT MIGHT ENGINEER A NEW BREED OF UNOPAN, STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND A VILTRUMITE INVASION.

DESPERATE TO FIND A WAY TO COMBAT THE EVER-EXPANDING VILTRUM EMPIRE, THE PLAN WAS APPROVED IMMEDIATELY.



FOR YEARS THE UNOPAN GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTED ON UNBORN FETUSES. THE RESULTS WERE A COMPLETE FAILURE.



UNTIL ALLEN. HE WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY SUBJECT TO SURVIVE THE TESTS WITHOUT DISFIGUREMENT AND MENTAL HANDICAPS.



HE WAS THE ONLY SUCCESS.

NEARLY FROM THE DAY HE WAS BORN HE WAS TAUGHT TO BE THE GREATEST FIGHTER THE UNIVERSE HAD EVER SEEN.



FOR A TIME--IT SEEMED HE WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS. EVEN BEFORE ADULthood AN OPPONENT COULD NOT BE FOUND WHO DIDN'T FALL BEFORE HIS MIGHT.



IMMEDIATELY AFTER ADULthood HAD BEEN REACHED HE WAS SENT ON HIS FIRST MISSION AGAINST THE VILTRUMITES.



IT DID NOT GO WELL. IT TURNED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH ALLEN WAS STRONGER THAN MOST EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE, HE WAS NOT UP TO VILTRUMITE STANDARDS OF COMBAT.



WITH ALLEN DEFEATED, THE PROGRAM WAS ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED A FAILURE, AND WAS SHUT DOWN FOR GOOD.



THE PROGRAM WASN'T A COMPLETE LOSS, ALLEN WAS SENT OUT INTO THE COSMOS UNDER THE GUISE OF "CHAMPION EVALUATION OFFICER."



HIS REAL MISSION WAS TO SEARCH FOR BEINGS STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HIM AND REPORT THEIR EXISTENCE TO THE COALITION.

THE HOPE WAS THAT IF THEY COULD DEFEAT HIM--MAYBE THEY WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT A VILTRUMITE AS WELL.



OF COURSE, DEAR READER,
THE STORY DOES NOT, IN
FACT, END THERE

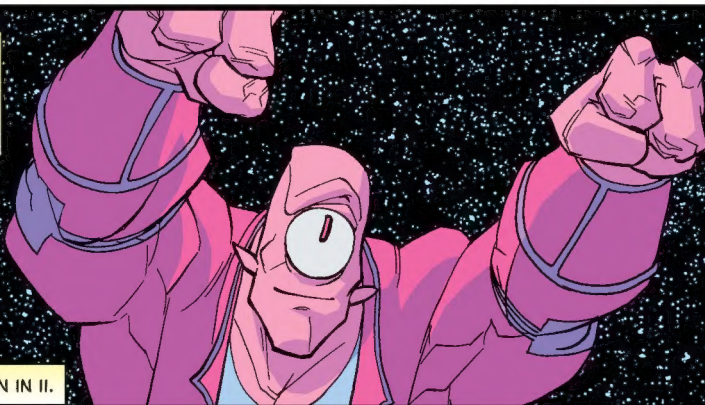
NOT EVEN
CLOSE.



IF I WERE TO CONTINUE I WOULD
TELL YOU OF THE TIMES NOLAN
GRAYSON HAD DEFEATED ALLEN
ON HIS ILL-FATED MISTAKEN
ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PLANET
EARTH.*

HOW DUE TO ALLEN'S
REPORTS, THE COALITION
HAD SCHEDULED HIM
MORE FREQUENT VISITS
TO THE PLANET URATH.

*SEEN BRIEFLY IN ISSUE 2, AND AGAIN IN II.



I WOULD EVEN CONTINUE TO
TELL YOU ABOUT HOW DURING
A CONFRONTATION WITH MARK
GRAYSON, NOLAN'S SON, ALLEN
LEARNED THE PLANET HE WAS
REALLY VISITING WAS
EARTH--NOT URATH.**

THEN I WOULD TELL HOW THE
COALITION, AFTER LEARNING OF
THE MISTAKE, INFORMED HIM
IT WAS OFF LIMITS--THAT
EARTH WAS ALREADY CLAIMED
BY VILTRUM.

I WOULD CONTINUE TO TELL
YOU HOW ALLEN RETURNED
TO EARTH TO WARN MARK OF
THE VILTRUMITE IN THEIR
MIDST.***

**SEE ISSUE 5, INVINCIBLEHEADS.

***YOU MIGHT AS WELL CHECK OUT ISSUE 13 WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.



WERE I TO CONTINUE WITH
THIS STORY EVEN FURTHER
I WOULD INFORM YOU OF
HOW ALLEN'S WARNING CAME
TOO LATE. MARK'S FATHER
WAS ALREADY REVEALED
TO BE THAT VILTRUMITE.***

ALL THIS INFORMATION LED TO
ALLEN'S CURRENT MISSIVE, AN
IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO BE
GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE
COALITION LEADERS.

YES, DEAR READER--I WOULD
LOVE TO TELL YOU ALL OF THIS,
BUT I HAVE NOT THE TIME,
FOR--

***ALSO IN ISSUE 13.



**ALLEN THE ALIEN
HAS RETURNED
HOME!**



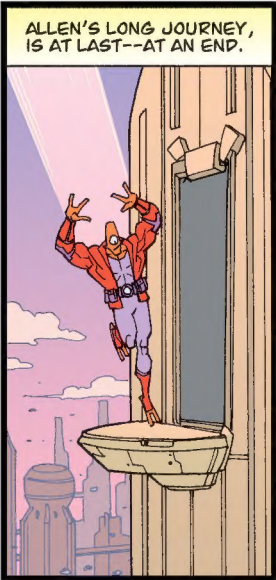


YES, HOME, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PLANET **TALESCRA**, THE CAPITAL OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS.

FAR BELOW ALLEN, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES, UNAWARE OF HIS RETURN.

UNAWARE OF THE NEWS HE CARRIES WITH HIM.

UNAWARE OF THE HOPE IT MAY BRING THEM.



ALLEN'S LONG JOURNEY, IS AT LAST--AT AN END.



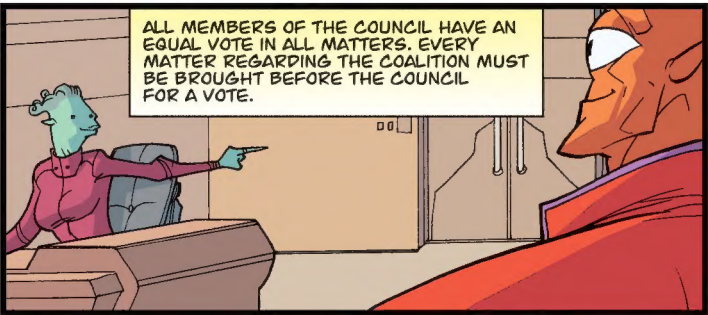
FROM THIS HUMBLE BUILDING AMIDST THE MILLION SKYSCRAPERS OF TALESCRA, THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS DECIDED.



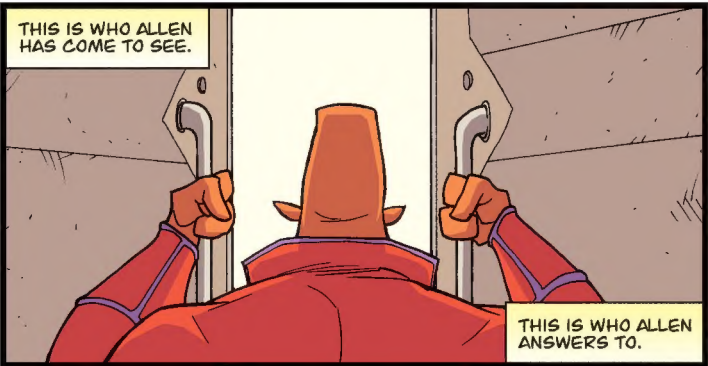
THIS BUILDING HOUSES THE MEETING HALL OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS. ALL DECISIONS ON ALL MATTERS ARE DECIDED HERE.



THE HIGH COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE PLANETS IN THE COALITION.

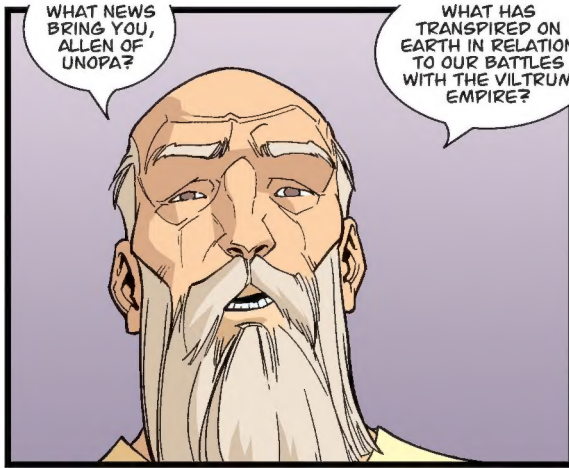


ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL HAVE AN EQUAL VOTE IN ALL MATTERS. EVERY MATTER REGARDING THE COALITION MUST BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL FOR A VOTE.



THIS IS WHO ALLEN HAS COME TO SEE.

THIS IS WHO ALLEN ANSWERS TO.



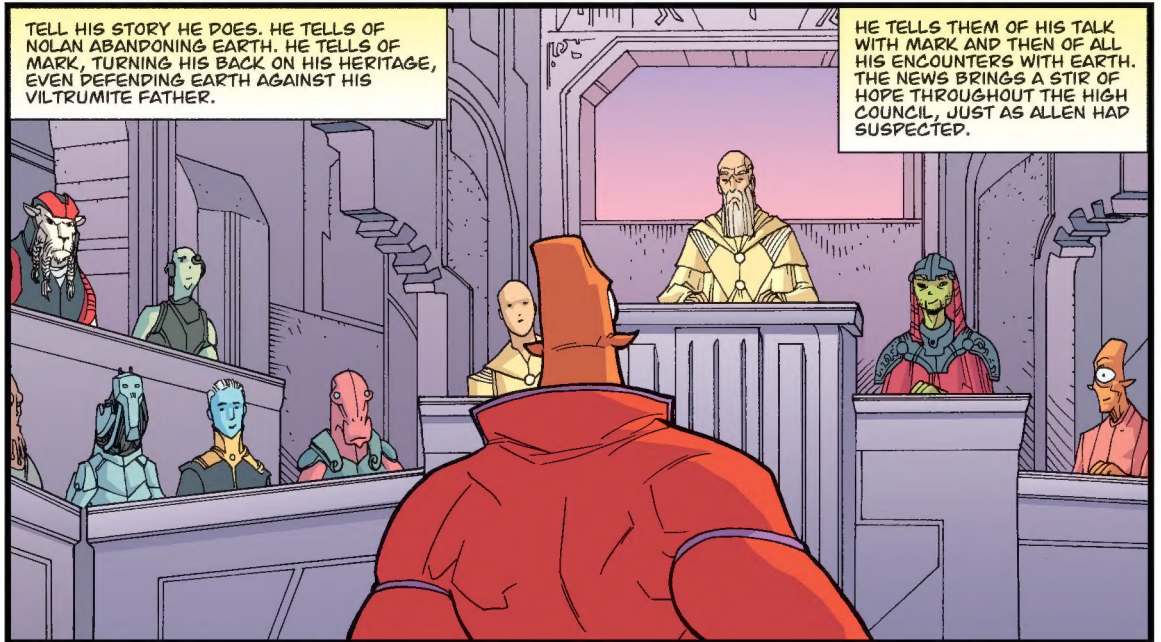
WHAT NEWS
BRING YOU,
ALLEN OF
UNOPA?

WHAT HAS
TRANSPIRED ON
EARTH IN RELATION
TO OUR BATTLES
WITH THE VILTRUM
EMPIRE?



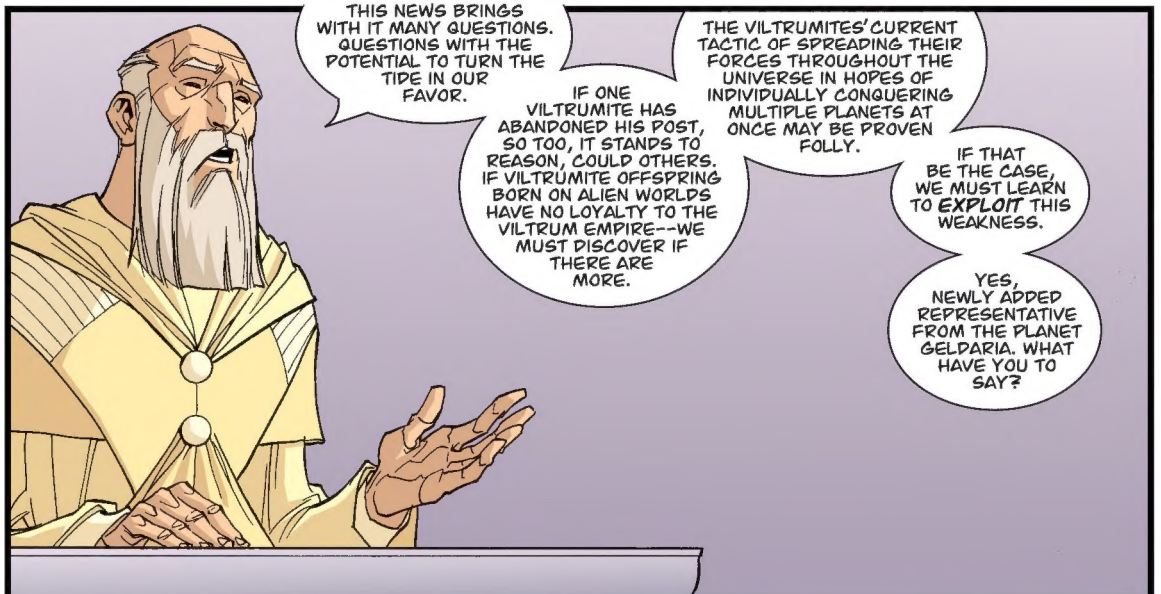
I BRING NEWS
OF A POSITIVE
NATURE, GREAT
THAEPUS.

NEWS THAT I
BELIEVE WILL
BRING OUR
PEOPLE GREAT
HOPE.



TELL HIS STORY HE DOES. HE TELLS OF
NOLAN ABANDONING EARTH. HE TELLS OF
MARK, TURNING HIS BACK ON HIS HERITAGE,
EVEN DEFENDING EARTH AGAINST HIS
VILTRUMITE FATHER.

HE TELLS THEM OF HIS TALK
WITH MARK AND THEN OF ALL
HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH EARTH.
THE NEWS BRINGS A STIR OF
HOPE THROUGHOUT THE HIGH
COUNCIL, JUST AS ALLEN HAD
SUSPECTED.



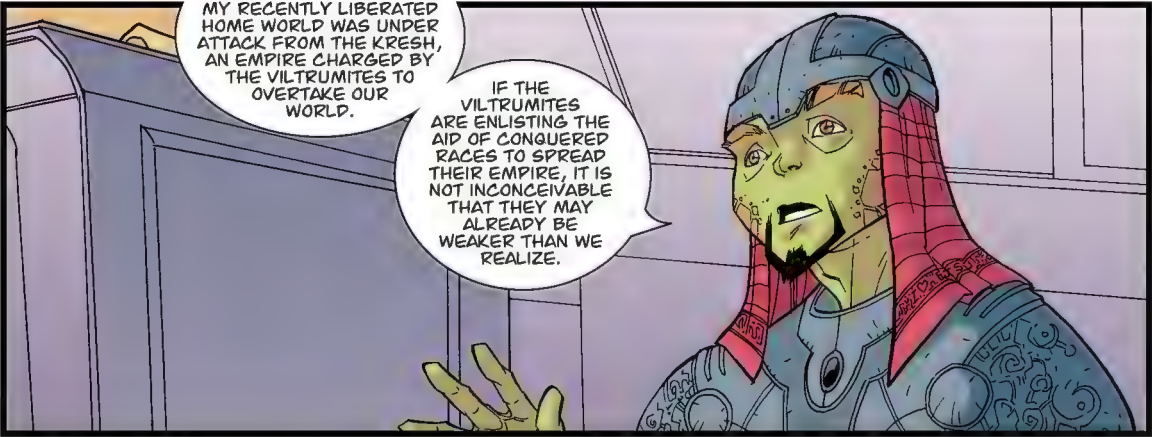
THIS NEWS BRINGS
WITH IT MANY QUESTIONS.
QUESTIONS WITH THE
POTENTIAL TO TURN THE
TIDE IN OUR
FAVOR.

IF ONE
VILTRUMITE HAS
ABANDONED HIS POST,
SO TOO, IT STANDS TO
REASON, COULD OTHERS.
IF VILTRUMITE OFFSPRING
BORN ON ALIEN WORLDS
HAVE NO LOYALTY TO THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE--WE
MUST DISCOVER IF
THERE ARE
MORE.

THE VILTRUMITES' CURRENT
TACTIC OF SPREADING THEIR
FORCES THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE IN HOPES OF
INDIVIDUALLY CONQUERING
MULTIPLE PLANETS AT
ONCE MAY BE PROVEN
FOLLY.

IF THAT
BE THE CASE,
WE MUST LEARN
TO **EXPLOIT** THIS
WEAKNESS.

YES,
NEWLY ADDED
REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE PLANET
GELDARIA. WHAT
HAVE YOU TO
SAY?

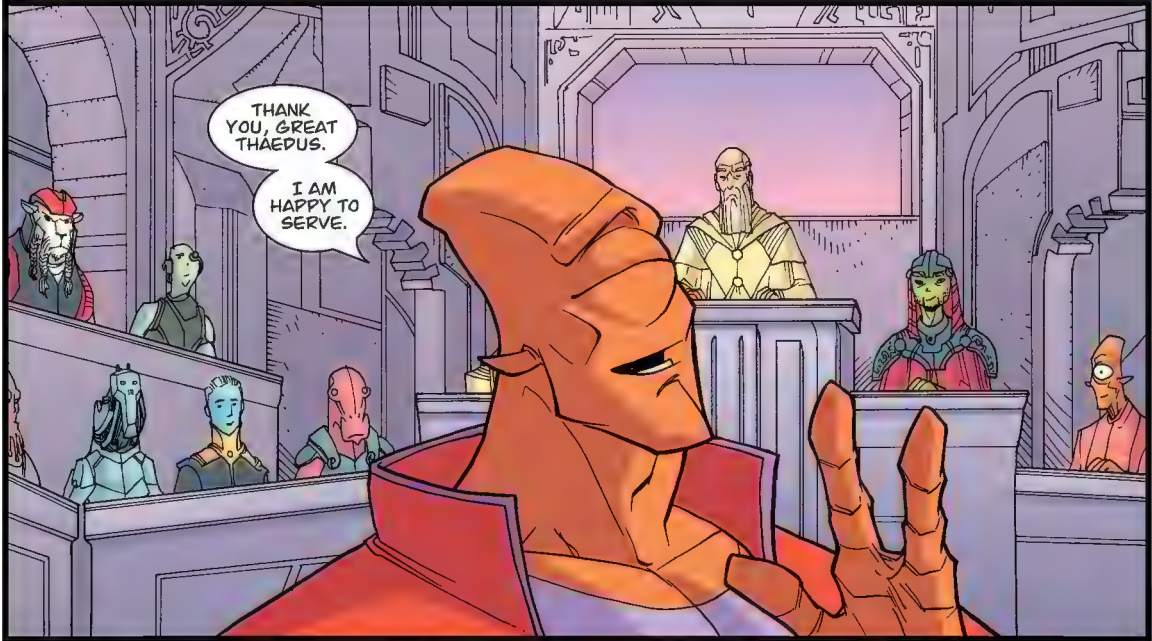


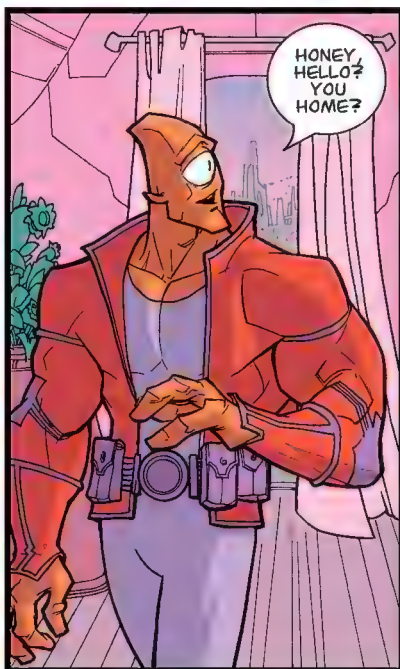
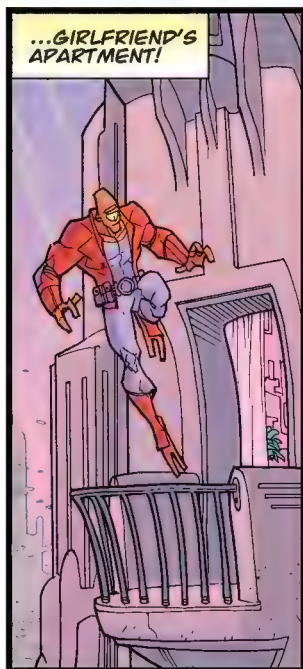
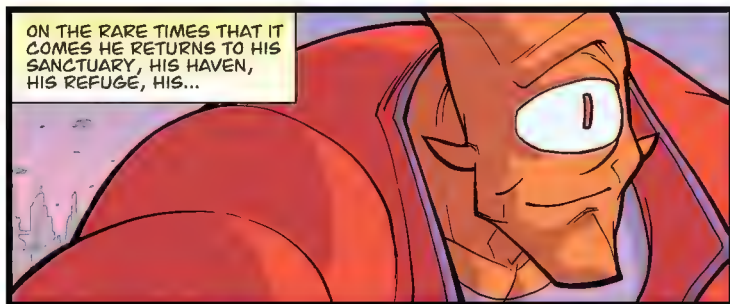
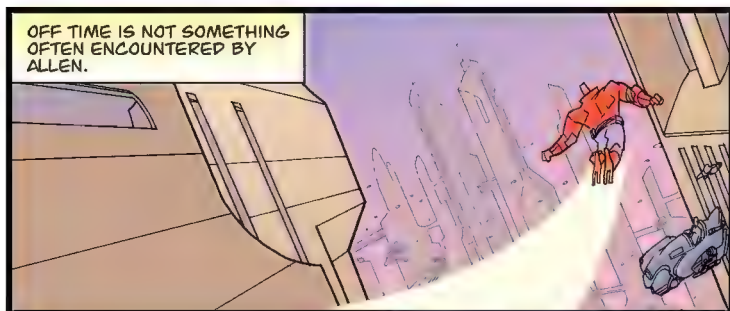
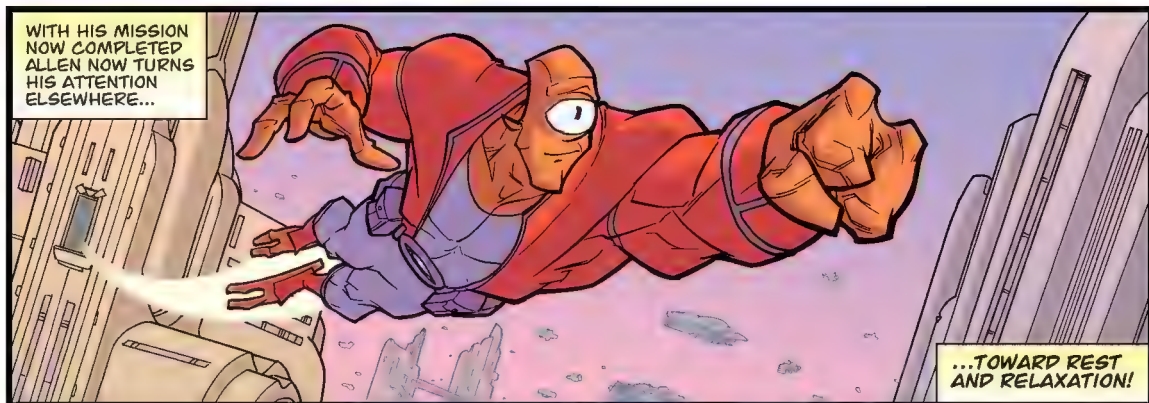
FURTHERMORE, WE MUST SEEK OUT THESE ROGUE VILTRUMITES AND ATTEMPT TO SWAY THEM TO OUR CAUSE. THEY WOULD BE VALUABLE ALLIES.

THE ONE CALLED INVINCIBLE. THE OFFSPRING BORN ON EARTH IS SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CAUSE. ANYTHING THAT WILL PREVENT THE EVENTUAL TAKEOVER OF EARTH WILL GAIN HIS ASSISTANCE.

HE HAS ALREADY STATED AS MUCH.*

*ISSUE 13 AGAIN.





I HAVE MISSED YOU A GREAT DEAL, TELIA.

LIKewise, HON'. YOU IN THE MOOD FOR A LITTLE "CATCHING UP?" I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN MONTHS.

TELIA-- PLEASE. YOU KNOW THAT I CAN'T--

WHAT? WHAT CAN'T YOU DO, ALLEN?

WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS INSIST ON THINGS YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO? PHYSICAL LOVE IS FORBIDDEN AMONG MY PEOPLE. ESPECIALLY WITH OTHER RACES.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR RULES, ALLEN. "ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR PEOPLE" AND ALL THAT CRAP.

I KNOW YOUR PEOPLE WERE ENDANGERED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO BUT EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE IN NO DANGER OF EXTINCTION NOW.

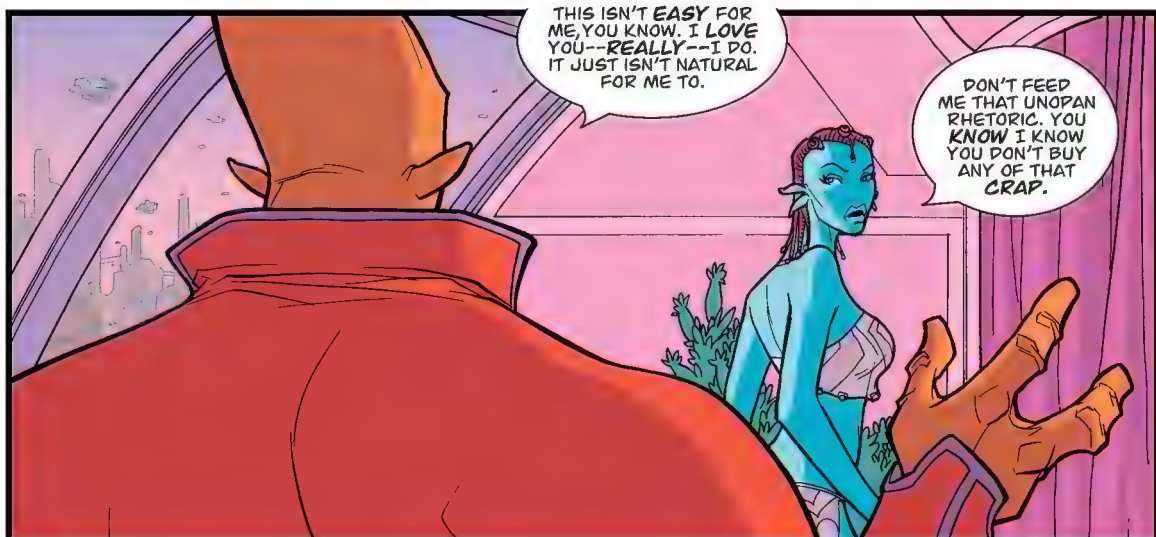
YOU'VE ALL JUST GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR BACKWARDS METHODS.

YOUR BREEDING FACTORIES MAY BE MORE EFFICIENT BUT I PROMISE YOU THEY'RE NOT AS FUN.

OH, NO. HOW CAN I TELL TELIA HOW MUCH I TRULY FEEL FOR HER WITHOUT BREAKING UNOPAN'S MOST SACRED LAWS?

I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT TELIA--I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I WERE TO LOSE HER. BUT--MY PEOPLE NEED ME--I CAN'T WASTE MYSELF ON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH HER...

...CAN I?



THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME, YOU KNOW. I LOVE YOU--REALLY--I DO. IT JUST ISN'T NATURAL FOR ME TO.

DON'T FEED ME THAT UNOPAN RHETORIC. YOU KNOW I KNOW YOU DON'T BUY ANY OF THAT CRAP.



BUT IF I'M DISCOVERED-- I COULD BE STRIPPED OF MY TITLE. I'VE GOT A DEPOSIT CYCLE COMING UP. IF MY LEVELS AREN'T ABOVE STANDARD--THEY'LL REALIZE--



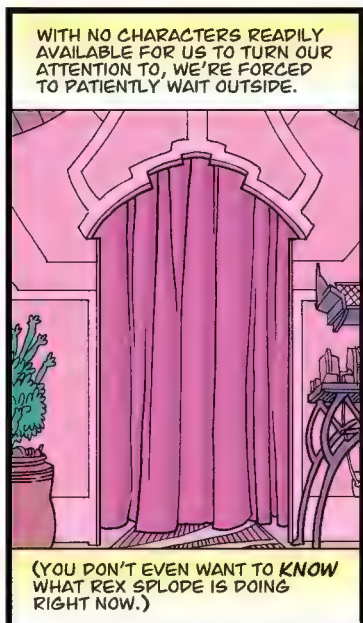
THAT NEVER STOPPED YOU BEFORE. DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY MONTHS I'VE WAITED FOR THIS?

GET IN HERE.



OKAY OKAY! YOU WIN.

LET'S GO.



WITH NO CHARACTERS READILY AVAILABLE FOR US TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO, WE'RE FORCED TO PATIENTLY WAIT OUTSIDE.

(YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT REX SPOLODE IS DOING RIGHT NOW.)



YES, OUT OF COURTESY FOR ALLEN, TELIA, AND ALL THE YOUNGER READERS IN THE AUDIENCE WE'LL JUST WAIT...



...AND WAIT.

LATER--AFTER THE REUNION HAS COMPLETED ITS CARNAL FESTIVITIES--

OUR ATTENTION REFOCUSSES ON ALLEN, HIGH ABOVE TALESORIA, CAPITAL OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS.

IT HAS BEEN MERE HOURS AND ALLEN AND TELIA NOW FIND THEMSELVES ENJOYING A LATE BREAKFAST AT THEIR FAVORITE DINER.



OH, MAN! I DON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I MISS FRESH KANZLOK WHILE I'M OUT ON MY MISSIONS UNTIL I GET BACK.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING I MISS MORE.

I CAN THINK OF ONE THING.

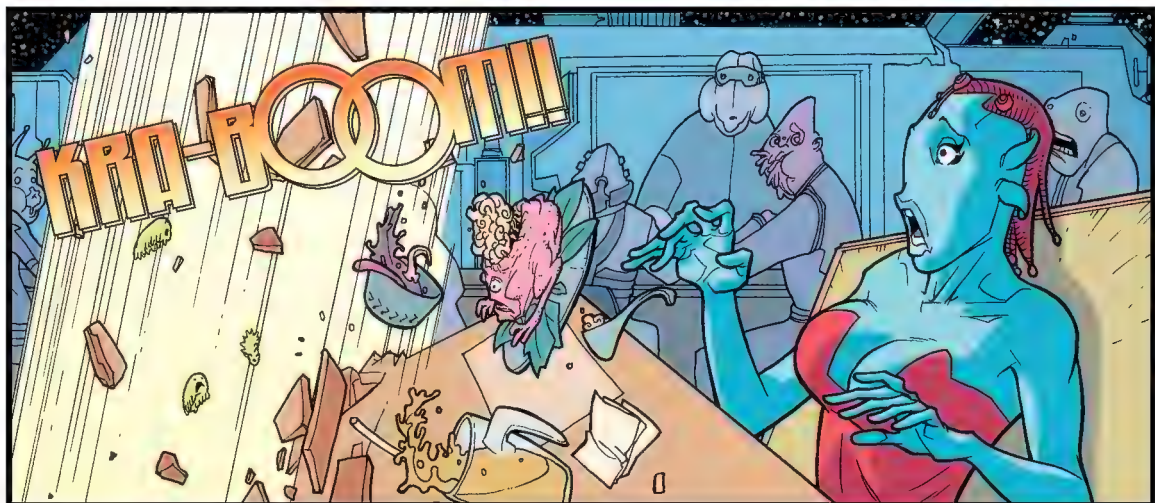
HMM?

YES OF COURSE--THAT... AND YOU. I MEANT **FOOD** SPECIFICALLY. I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THALMUN BARS AND OTHER SWEETS BUT I NEVER THINK ABOUT KANZLOK UNTIL I GET BACK.

AND PLEASE-- DON'T SPEAK OF OUR--YOU KNOW-- IN PUBLIC. IT'S TOO RISKY.

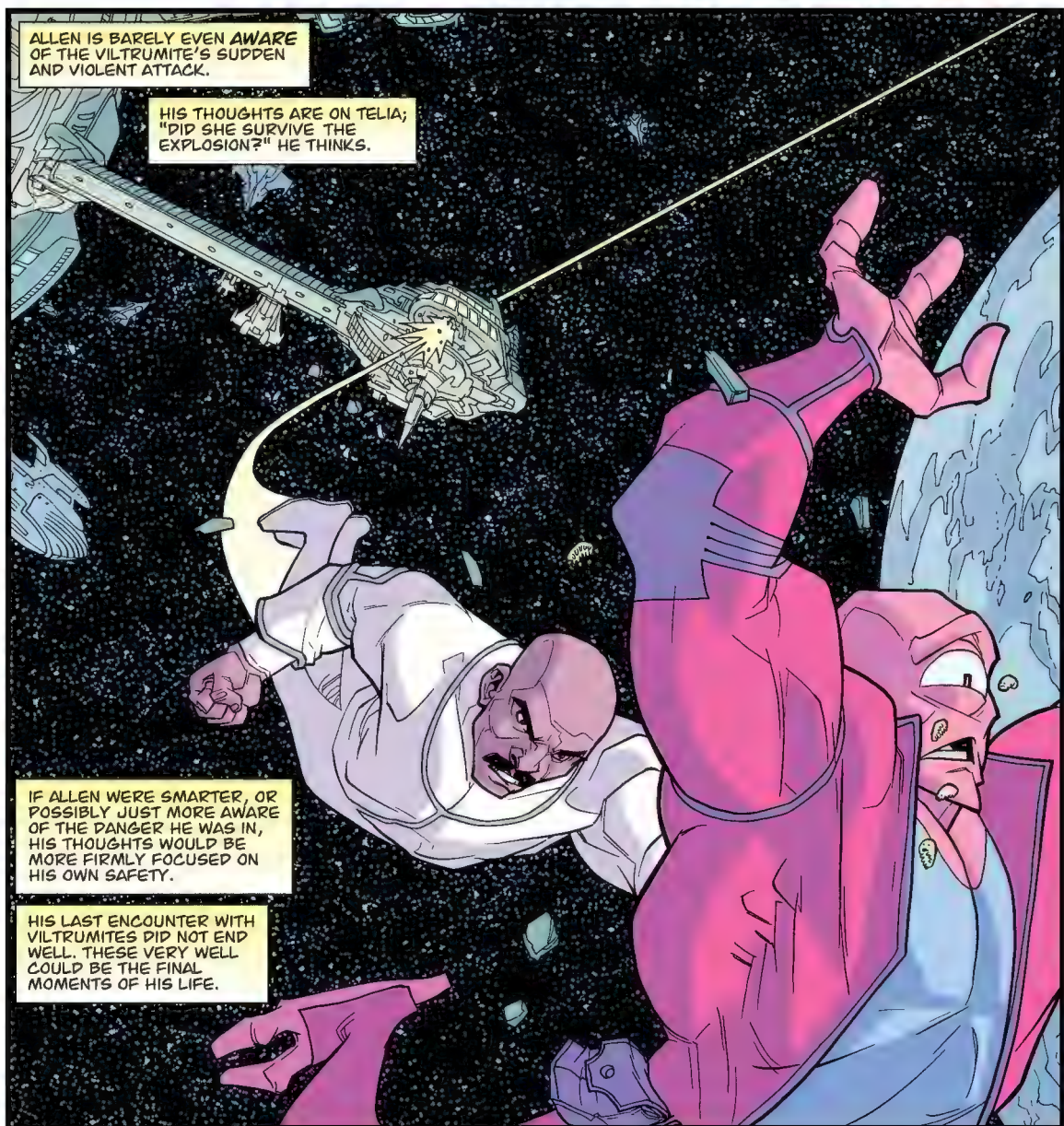
WHAT? LIKE THERE'S SOME UNOPAN SPY SITTING AT THE NEXT BOOTH OVER THAT'S GOING TO SEE YOU CONVERSING WITH ME, PIECE TOGETHER THE MEANINGS OF OUR HALF FINISHED STATEMENTS AND ARREST YOU ON THE SPOT?

THAT'S RIDICUL--



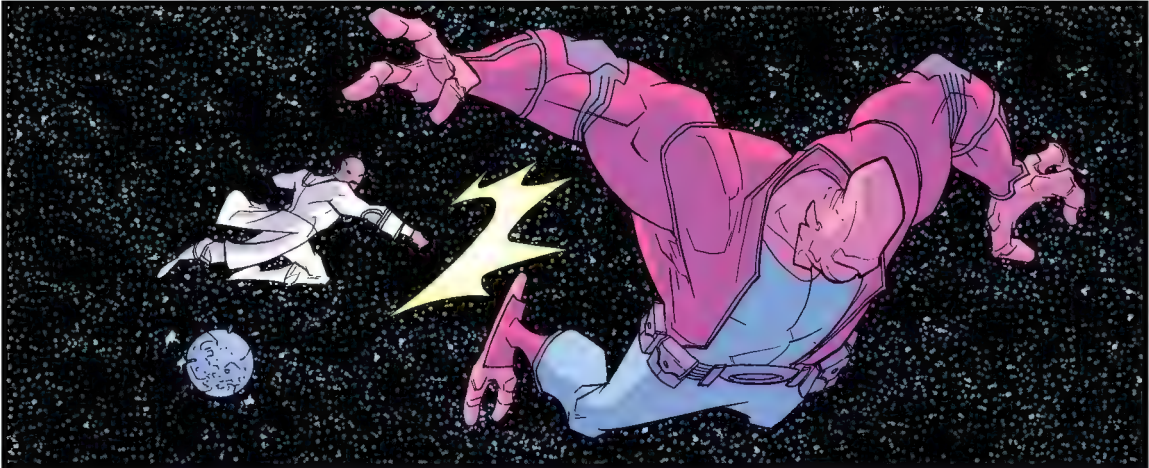
ALLEN IS BARELY EVEN AWARE OF THE VILTRUMITE'S SUDDEN AND VIOLENT ATTACK.

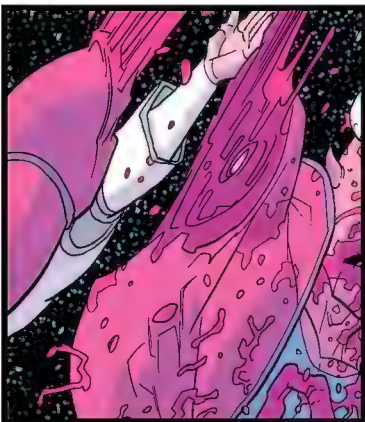
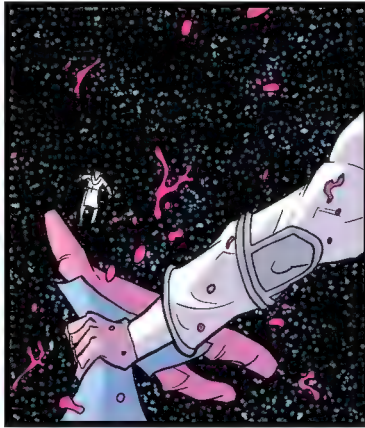
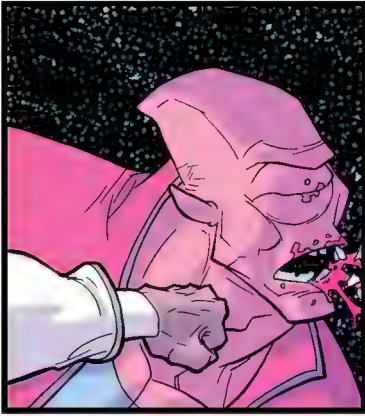
HIS THOUGHTS ARE ON TELIA; "DID SHE SURVIVE THE EXPLOSION?" HE THINKS.



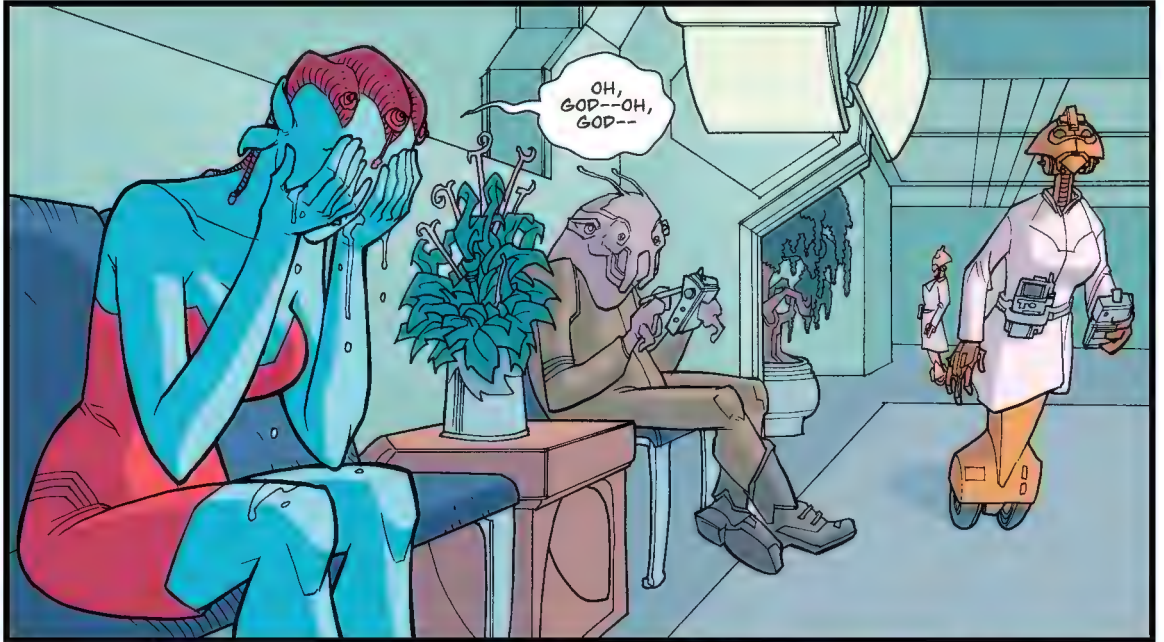
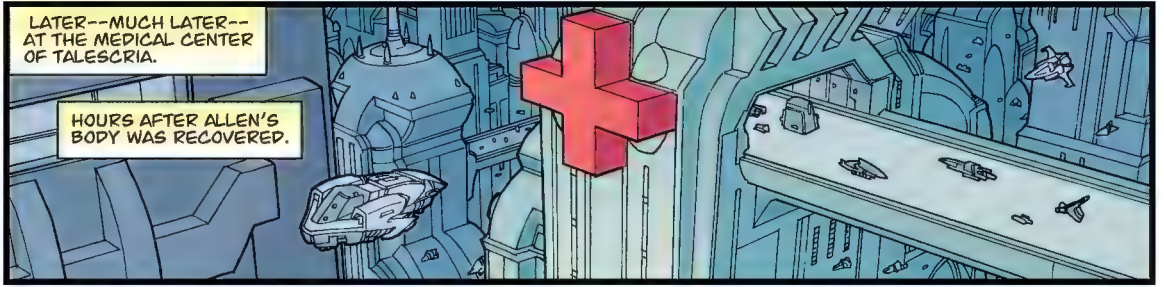
IF ALLEN WERE SMARTER, OR POSSIBLY JUST MORE AWARE OF THE DANGER HE WAS IN, HIS THOUGHTS WOULD BE MORE FIRMLY FOCUSED ON HIS OWN SAFETY.

HIS LAST ENCOUNTER WITH VILTRUMITES DID NOT END WELL. THESE VERY WELL COULD BE THE FINAL MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE.





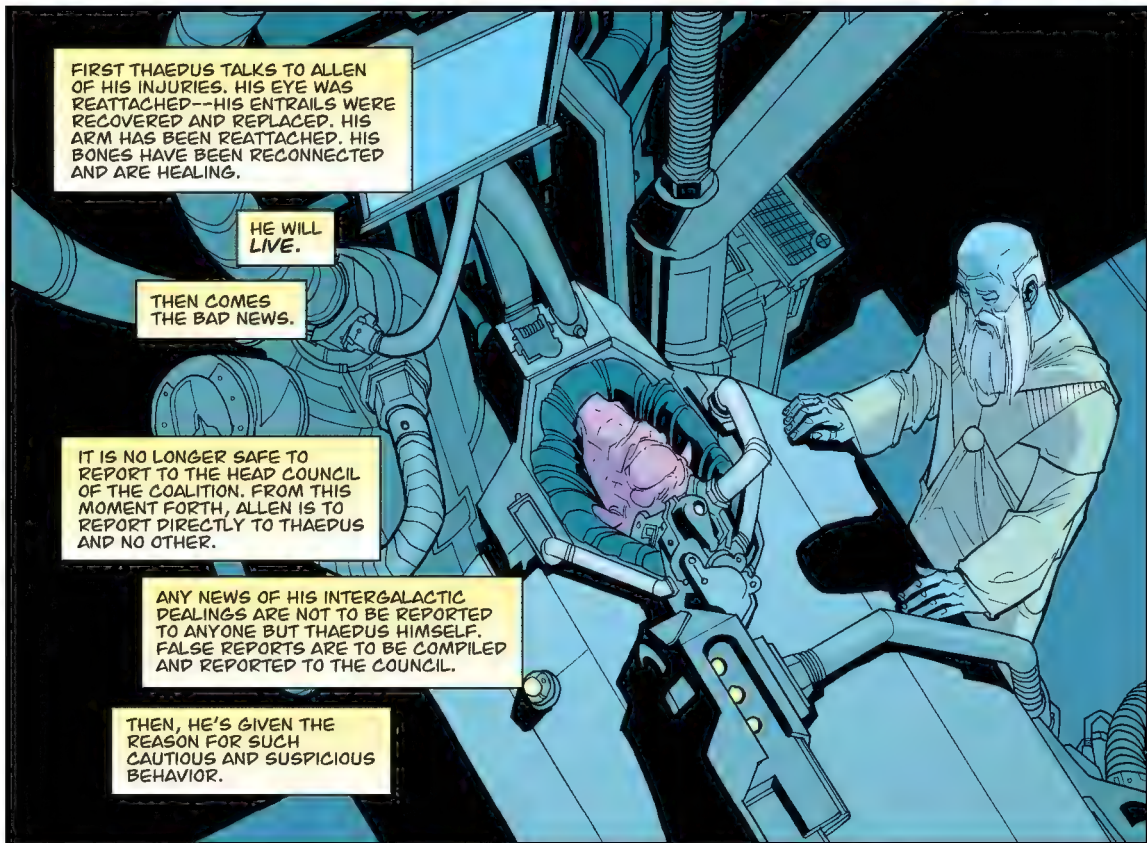






DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE
OR REPLY. THOSE FACILITIES
WILL BE BEYOND YOUR GRASP
FOR SOME TIME--BUT
LISTEN.

I
KNOW
YOU CAN
LISTEN.



FIRST THAEDUS TALKS TO ALLEN
OF HIS INJURIES. HIS EYE WAS
REATTACHED--HIS ENTRAILS WERE
RECOVERED AND REPLACED. HIS
ARM HAS BEEN REATTACHED. HIS
BONES HAVE BEEN RECONNECTED
AND ARE HEALING.

HE WILL
LIVE.

THEN COMES
THE BAD NEWS.

IT IS NO LONGER SAFE TO
REPORT TO THE HEAD COUNCIL
OF THE COALITION. FROM THIS
MOMENT FORTH, ALLEN IS TO
REPORT DIRECTLY TO THAEDUS
AND NO OTHER.

ANY NEWS OF HIS INTERGALACTIC
DEALINGS ARE NOT TO BE REPORTED
TO ANYONE BUT THAEDUS HIMSELF.
FALSE REPORTS ARE TO BE COMPILED
AND REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL.

THEN, HE'S GIVEN THE
REASON FOR SUCH
CAUTIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS
BEHAVIOR.



THERE IS A MOLE
WITHIN THE HEAD
COUNCIL OF THE
COALITION.

UNTIL HE
IS DISCOVERED
AND ELIMINATED--
NO ONE IS SAFE.
THE VERY COALITION
ITSELF IS IN
JEOPARDY.

THIS
COULD VERY
WELL BE THE
BEGINNING
OF THE
END.



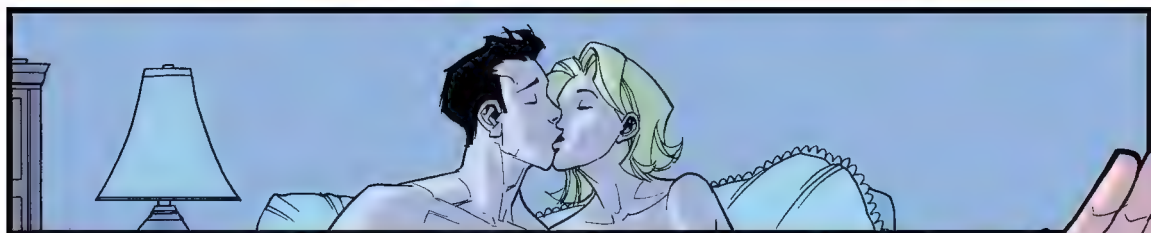
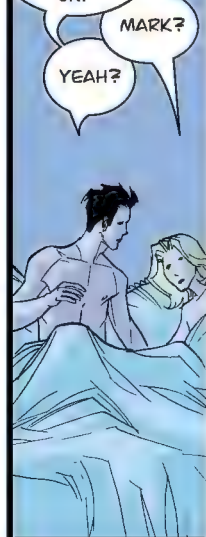
I--I WAS THINKING MAYBE I COULD SPEND THE NIGHT HERE. Y'KNOW, SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A ROOMMATE OR ANYTHING.



LOOK AT THE CLOCK, SILLY. YOU **DID** SLEEP NEXT TO ME--IT'S ALMOST MORNING. YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SUN COMES UP AND IT'LL BE EASIER TO SPOT YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE SUPER FAST AND ALL THAT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO RISK IT.



OKAY--SORRY. JUST, UH... LET ME GET MY CLOTHES ON.



WRITE US @

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INVINCIBLE PRINCIPALS

Well, I tried something a little different this month... I hope you guys liked it. I had a lot of info to dump on you this issue and I thought it might be fun to do an old style comic. I had a lot of fun writing this thing and I'm pretty pleased with how it came out. I know it's not the wisest move to do an issue that's such a departure from how the series usually is right after the hopefully new reader grabbing issue #0... but it was now or never and I really wanted to give the this a shot.

If you're a new reader that loved issue #0 but... hated this issue, give us another issue... this one isn't a good representation of how the series usually is. Now, if you LOVED this issue, you're in luck, they're all just like this one. So keep reading!!

Blockbuster Online, folks... it's the bomb (I'm told that means "good."). I signed up recently and I gotta say it is so much cooler than I expected it to be. DVDs brought to your door, all the time. No late fees, no need to leave the house. I totally recommend it.

Also, be on the lookout for our big hardcover coming out this June. You'll get issues 1-13 all in one huge book for a measly \$34.95. It's a STEAL!

Now, let's get on with the letters.

Dear Kirkman,

Like I said in your other letters column, story arcs suck. Kirkman rules. So many sub-plots, just like the good old days. Ottley and Crabtree rock. Midnight City: Good. Shadow Realm: Good. Every cell of every page: Good. Man, Ottley and Crabtree could do this without you. Luckily though, we get all the Kirkman goodness to go with them (but seriously, they're good). And congrats on the Paramount deal! Issue 30 sounds great. 50 cents! It could be twenty pages of story involving Mark buying new shoes and pin-ups of him sweeping the porch and helping old ladies across the street. It would totally be worth it! I need the hardcover too. I completely forgot about Darkwing, Here are some numbered questions:

1. Is the coloring getting better?
2. Is that possible?
3. Can we get more info on Midnight Magician and his spell over Midnight City?
4. Yeah more robot! What the heck is up with Robot? (like you'd answer that in a letters column)

Thanks for printing the Invincible story in the back instead of that other stuff I don't read. Hard to believe that we're on issue 21. Here's to a few more, until you get rich and leave us.

Lotsa Love,
Chris Pitts

Ottley and Crabtree could do this without me? You expect me to answer your letters after saying something like THAT. Eat me.

- 1. It better be.**
- 2. Anything is possible.**
- 3. Maybe some day.**
- 4. More Robot is coming. I have lots of plans for that guy.**

Penvincipals:

Another great issue. It's great to see Mark use his brains in the field, even if he did get a late start in doing so. It was also nice to see that the death's of the Original Guardians is still having repercussions on the world.

It's a little bit annoying to read this title right now, because each issue is hinting at something else that's going to happen. Mark's relationship with Amber, Robot's meetings with the guy in the tube, the mad scientist looking for his college degree, it's all on it's way and there's nothing I can do to bring it here sooner! It hurts, don't you know that?!?

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

Things have been getting a little out of hand as of late, and I think this issue especially set up all kinds of new subplots for me to deal with... but as you'll see next issue, the next batch of issues is going to be all payoff (and more set-up, of course). Issues 14-21 were the setup issues that'll get me through issue 50. I think issues 24-40 are going to be worth all the setup you had to sit through so just hang on... it's going to be a wild ride.

Penvincipals,

I'd like to add more compliments on the creation of Battle Beast, but since you politely asked for them to stop I won't. Just to let you know, Invincible sells very well in these local Cincinnati comic shops. At the majority of them you can't find a single back issue in stock. I was fortunate enough to find the Eight Is Enough TPB though which I haven't read yet, but when I do I will be sure to write in and tell you what I thought. Some questions:

1. Why did you change the paper texture of the cover on issue 21? I liked the harder cover better because it's not used that much.
2. How about an Invincible-Jack Staff crossover? I've never read a whole issue of Jack Staff but he seems like a good character that would make a good story arc.
3. Does any of the Invincible staff read Mirage's TMNT?
4. Will we ever see a guest penciller in the future? (No disrespect to Ottley, just wondering.)

- Mark Neeley

1. I like my comics flimsy... they feel more like comics to me. When Eric Stephenson told me that I could use thinner covers now (at the other printer we used, we couldn't) I made the switch. I like it, it's here to stay.

2. I'd love to do that. Paul Grist seems too busy trying to get that book out on time to do it though, and I'd only want to do it if he drew it.

3. I used too, but I haven't picked up an issue in a long time.

4. No plan too at this moment. I like Ryan exactly where he is.

Better late than never? I just read the first 15 issues (including the letters pages) over the last week or so and I love it just as much as I was afraid I would. The last thing I needed was another monthly series that I'm hooked on but having been a fan of The Walking Dead since the start I knew I was taking a chance. Anyway, I've got six more issues to tide me over for now so I can't complain (yet). Please keep up the great work. I plan on sticking around as long as you do.

Thanks,
Tom Adams

Welcome aboard, Tom. It's good to hear about new readers jumping on the book. I've got big plans for this book and I can't do them unless there're people there to read them. So thanks, I hope you like where we're going with this.

I've been reading all about Invincible since last June (but I got a way to find all issues, from the first to the last month_s), and I can say it's almost the greatest superhero comic book in the whole universe (if it wasn't for Alan Moore's Miracleman). Besides the fan-boy compliments, I want to ask some questions:

- 1 - Am I hallucinating or are those twins up to a 'Crisis' or something like it?
- 2 - How the hell a girl like Eve ended up with a moron like William? And will we see William flying again?
- 3 - Science Dog will be showing up in an Invincible tale? I loved seeing that little scene when Mark met with Science Dog's creator... It's a classic!

That's all for now.

Thanks for all those great comics, and let's hope years of more great/excellent comics to come!

Tiago Salviatti.

Miracle Man? Feh! Actually, I've never read it. I've never been able to find copies at a reasonable price. If anyone out there has the inside track on Miracle Man issues, let me know.

1 - You are Hallucinating.

2 - William's a good guy. He's fun to be around. He'll be flying again before you know it... just wait and see.

3 - Yep, issue 25 will feature Science Dog--it's going to be a blast!

Kirkman,

Well I finally broke down and started reading Invincible after getting this far into Walking Dead. It was actually pretty hard to find back issues, but that must be a good thing on your end. Just now I'm finally caught up since I finally got issue 14 and could then read the rest I collected. I have to say that it's a really great comic, art wise and especially story. It's like there are no wasted panels, it's always a great reaction shot or a funny joke like the Star Wars joke with the water barrier door. It really comes together well, so much that I won't call you out for having "Probably the best superhero comic book in the universe" up at the top.

Too many comics make every issues last page the big cliffhanger part, but Invincible's plot unfolds in a way that seems really natural. Villains always scheming, and almost every character has a story that's interesting and relevant. I just want to say that it comes together perfectly, and it's one of the

best comics out there in my opinion. I'm not sure if you'll ever top Blade of the Immortal on my list, but Invincible and the Walking Dead are easily 2 and 3.

Well that's it for me, just sending you some ego boost. I've got a letter for TWD planned so keep an eye out for it :)

-Bill Deese

Ego boost?! Where? All I'm seeing are letters saying "Ryan and Bill could do this without you" and "Miracle Man is way better than your book" and "Blade of the Immortal is number 1." What's up with this month? That's it... I quit. The rest of these letters are getting answered by my neighbor, Gerald.

Yo, Robert Dude!

I got to tell you, I'm a bit worried. I just got news about the film in Wizard, I read something about it on the net a few weeks ago but passed it off as rumor. I just don't want it to suck in any way. Please make sure they don't mess it up. I wanna see many villains and sub plots and action and prefer if it will be around 3+hours. I'm not asking much am I? Cuz sooner or later I'm gonna have it on dvd and will watch it many times over. So I need a lot more than normal unless u plan on making 3 back to back and release them every month. Cuz nothing would rock more if this book was on the big screen! I have a few questions, do what you can, be cryptic!

1. Is Ben Afflek in the rank for mark? (You better say no)
2. Tom Selleck as omni-man (or make sure u cgi his mustache on whoever)
3. Will you appear in the movie as a hot-dog vendor or security guard

maybe a postman?

4. Can you print this letter in issue 25?

Congrats by the way I am proud to say I've been there from the start here's to another 26 and a half more (free comic and zero issue)

ROB STEAL

The movie, if it gets made, will be what it will be. I get to write the screenplay but it's not set in stone that they have to use it. It's also not set in stone that a second script by someone else won't be BETTER than mine. The movie is separate from the comic and will not affect the book in any way... so it's really not a big deal. It's certainly not worth worrying about at this point.

1. It hasn't gotten to that point yet.
2. I think when people suggest Tom Selleck they're casting the mustache.
3. I hope!
4. Will 23 do?

Robert-

Just bought the first two Invincible trades after several months of my friends telling me what a dumbass I am for not reading the book. They were right.

One thing: I'm very interested in Science Dog. The visual did it for me, really: he's a humaniform terrier, he has a jet pack, and he's (I'm assuming) a scientist-adventurer in the vein of Doc Savage, Tom Strong, and Reed Richards. I want to know his story. Obviously, you're quite busy these days, what with doing Invincible, The Walking Dead, and your Marvel work, so who the hell knows when you might get around to telling it. But in the mean-

time, have you considered giving him a little cameo in Invincible? I know he's a fictional character in Mark's universe (or is he...), but surely in a world with cities shrouded in eternal night by magic spells and science teachers who put bombs in students' chests, a meet-up between a teenaged superhero and his comic book idol wouldn't be entirely out of the question. As an aside, it'd also make good water-testing for the marketability of Science Dog: The Series.

Just something I thought I might throw at you. If you use it, a mention in the trade wouldn't suck. Congratulations on the movie deal.

Michael Pullmann

You sir, need to purchase issue 25. Not only does it feature a guest appearance by Science Dog but it also features a twelve-page Science Dog back-up by Cory Walker and I. It should be a blast. That should tide you over for a few years. I'm not opposed to doing a series one day, but there's nothing planned right now.

Penvincipals,

I have no idea what was going on with Robot at the end of this issue, but I loved it! And Midnight City? I loved that too! I'll try my hand at a few comments/questions:

1. There was a free issue? Cod sarn it! They missed it off my subscription! Damn them! Oh wait... Here it is...

2. What's the extra stuff in the TPBs that aren't in the comics? Extra pages of story? Sketchbooks and the like?

3. I've only been getting the Walking Dead in TPB format, so I'll tell you here

that I'm likin' it so far. It's different... But in a good way...

4. I'm a patient guy, but it feels like I've been waiting to see what's going on with Robot for ages. He's intrigued me from day one. Will we know the whole story soon?

5. Where do babies come from?

Counting down the days to Invincible #22,
John Turner

1. See, we aim to please. It's also in the Volume 4 TPB.

2. Mainly just sketchbook stuff, but there's a lot of it. And there's the introductions by the industry's best and brightest. I don't want to add more story pages because then I think people would feel like they needed to buy it, and I only want you kids buying these things if you want to.

3. Good to hear. Stick with it. Now try Marvel Team-Up!

4. That's because most people assumed there was something up with Robot when there wasn't. There wasn't "something up" with Robot until recently... it's a NEW subplot.

5. Storks, man... the same as pickles.

Hey, first time writing in for a comic, and I must say, this is my all time favorite. I just finished rereading issue 1-21 again, and just love it so freakin' much. I am a decently big comic fan, and if I ever had to sell off everything, I would keep invincible. I would sell all my transformers stuff (which is a ton of it, cuz I love me them robots) but just

couldn't part with this series. I have been slowly attempting to create a movie script too, cuz I think this story would be excellent on the big screen. Of course, it would star me, but that's cuz I'm cool like that. And pee wee herman would be robot. Thats my casting so far. And I must say I love the British falling from the sky panels. Quite funny. Anyway, cant wait to see where all this craziness is headed, new crime bosses, omni-man still gone, a shape shifting alien on earth, and the human sequid mix on mars. Thanks for creating this amazing peice of art

Peace,
Mr Lumptastic

Yeah, man... dump that Transformers crap! What do you need THAT for?! Glad you're in for the long haul "Lumptastic" You won't be sorry you stuck around, I promise.

Hey Robert,

Just finished issue #14.... :)

Actually, I've been buying your book since issue #1, and I just recently purchased issue #21 before I actually started to read it. (I'm a really BIG procrastinator...sue me) I've been hearing the hype, so I figured I must have latched onto a good thing. (I had bought issues #1 & 2 on a whim at my local shop).

Anyhoo, the book is really kick-ass, and my almost 38 year old senses have really gotten a kick in the nads by this book. Especially the little things... like the Burger Mart bag finally crashing to Earth... I don't care what that Chris Piers guy says... that was cool. Being a comic reader since 1975, I've really come to appreciate detail and respect for continuity in books; something that

has been awfully scarce in the last decade. So I just wanted to say "Thanks" for a great book, and despite your increasing popularity & workload, you'll still have time for it.

I never thought I'd see the day that TWO Image books would be at the top of my list (Invincible & Rex Mundi (an EXTREMELY underrated book)).

I apologize for waiting so long....
Thanks for your time,
Mike 13

Man, Image is putting out some solid gold nuggets of comic goodness these days. Expatriate, Sea of Red, Godland, Death Jr., Strange Girl, Small Gods, The Amazing Joy Buzzards, Girls, Mora, Noble Causes, NYC Mech, PVP, ShadowHawk... the list goes on... there's a lot of good stuff coming from Image in the coming months, including some HUGE projects on the horizon.

With that I'll bring this column of letters to a close. Be back here next month for the wrap up of a long-running subplot. I promise.

This month's pin-ups by:

- 1. The whole gang by Todd Nauck with colors by Jacob Baake.**
- 2. Atom Eve by Khary Randolph.**

See you next month.

-Robert Kirkman

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TO ISSUE 25
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